

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).*

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	From the GroundUp: Fostering Rural Youth Participation in the EU Agenda
Participant:	[Community Led Local Development Halland] (CLLD Halland)
PIC number:	893413748

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	European Conference: after the Election, how do we create and maintain trust in the EU and its institutions in view of disinformation, fake news, and misleading content? Citizens' Dialogue: Youth voices - preparing for the study visit in Brussels
Type:	Conference, Citizens' Dialogue
In situ/online:	in situ
Location:	Sweden, Halland Region
Date(s):	5-7 February 2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://lluh.se/2024/04/04/groundup-vill-du-paverka-landsbygden-i-europa/
Participants (CLLD Halland):	
Female:	(International 21) (Swe 48) = 69
Male:	(International 7) (Swe 31) = 38
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Czech Republic]:	3
From country 2 [Finland]:	3
From country 3 [Austria]:	2

From country 4 [Poland]:	2	
From country 5 [Portugal]:	2	
From country 6 [Italy]	3	
From country 7 [Bulgaria]	2	
From country 8 [Sweden]:	78	
From country 9 [Germany]	2	
From country 10 [Spain]	2	
From country 11 [Greece]	1	
From country 12 [Slovakia]	2	
From country 13 [Ireland]	2	
From country 14 [Holland]	2	
From country 15 [Belgium]	1	
Total number of participants:	107	From total number of countries: 15

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

- Target groups:

Project partners, policy makers, civil society organizations, youth, local actors, European Parliamentarians and other high policy makers.

- Description of the event and its activities/ context:

The key goal of this event was to develop a clear understanding of how disinformation, fake news, and misleading content affect public trust in EU institutions, particularly after the European Elections. Through the Citizens' Dialogue, young participants could exchange views on how to combat disinformation and contribute to strengthening EU democracy and governance.

Goals of the event were:

1. Enhancing understanding of misinformation and its impact on political trust
2. Preparing for the Brussels study visit.
3. Facilitate networking and collaboration among partners.

- Agenda of the event:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qMa6e_Xi-pxZTkW-cO7pge9zC1hT1LEo/view?usp=drive_link

Day 1, February 5

Arrivals, transfers from the Falkenberg station

Registration

18:15 – Welcome dinner at Ekholmen restaurant and getting to know each other (project updates)

Day 2, February 6

8:00–9:00 Registration

9:00–15:00 European Conference (including Citizens' Dialogue) – Open to the public

Theme: European Conference: After the elections, how do we create and maintain trust in the EU and its institutions in view of disinformation, fake news, and misleading content?

8:00–9:00 Registration

9:00–9:10 Welcome

9:10–9:40 *A New EU Parliament, a New EU Commission, and a Changing EU*
Sven Kastö, Head of the SBHSS office in Brussels, discusses the challenges the EU will face in the coming years and what they mean for the local and regional levels in Europe.

9:40–10:10 *Disinformation*

Andreas Jahrehorn Önnarfors, course leader at the Media Institute Fojo, talks about increasing understanding of disinformation and its impact on political trust.

10:10–10:35 Coffee break

10:35–12:15 World Café

Main question: *What do I need to achieve and maintain trust in the EU institutions in relation to disinformation and outcomes?*

12:15–13:00 Lunch

13:00–14:30 Citizens' Dialogue

Young people from rural areas meet politicians in discussions about digital transformation and youth engagement.

Content: The dialogue explores how digital tools can enhance youth involvement in civic and political activities, covering topics such as combating misinformation, digital literacy, and leveraging social media for civic engagement.

14:30–15:00 Wrap-up, closing of the conference and coffee break

Continuation for the project partners:

15:00–15:40 Free time

15:50 Study Visit: The bus departs from Katrinebergs Folkhögskola to Källsjö Bryggeri.

16:30 The bus arrives at Källsjö Bryggeri

Mikael Nylander is the founder of Källsjö Bryggeri & Smaksmedja. In this unique brewery located near Ullared, he produces his award-winning "cultivated tea" inspired by nature. Mikael will share his journey, talk about the brewery, and discuss his experiences to run a Leader project. The participants will also have the opportunity to taste products, view the equipment and raw materials.

Presentation by **Stina Lindgren** on Europa Direkt Halland

- Stina Lindgren, project manager for Europa Direkt Halland, will talk about the organization and how it works to raise awareness about the EU and its policies. Stina will also share how they work to maintain trust in the EU.

17:20 The bus departs from Källsjö Bryggeri

18:10 The bus arrives at Skrea Matbruk

19:00 Kockarnas Kamp, a cooking competition where participants compete in teams.

20:00 Dinner with a sharing menu.

21:00 The bus departs from Källsjö Bryggeri to Katrinebergs Folkhögskola

Day 3, February 7

7:15-8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Check-out and transfer to the trains

- Main takeaways/ findings from the event

How Can We Strengthen and Maintain Trust in the EU in an Era of Disinformation?

This crucial question was at the heart of the European conference organized by Community Led Local Development Halland at Katrinebergs Folkhögskola on February 6, 2025. The event gathered over 100 participants from 14 European countries and the Halland region for a full day of lectures, discussions, and workshops on democracy, disinformation, and citizen engagement in EU matters. What a day it was!

Keynote Lecture: A Changing EU

The day began with a keynote speech by Sven Kastö, Head of the Småland Blekinge Halland South Sweden (SBHSS) office in Brussels. In his presentation, "*A New European Parliament, a New European Commission, and a Changing EU*," he outlined the EU's challenges in the coming years and their implications across Europe's local and regional levels.

Kastö highlighted key points from the *Draghi Report*, which suggests that the EU is falling behind in innovation and may need to reassess its approach in this area. He emphasized the importance of maintaining strong partnerships with like-minded allies, particularly in an increasingly uncertain global landscape. Strengthening international cooperation, even beyond the EU's current borders, will be crucial for future stability and progress.

Lecture on Disinformation

The second keynote speaker, Andreas Jahrehorn Önerfors, a Professor and course leader at Medieinstitutet Fojo, provided insights into disinformation and its impact on political trust. He explored the key actors involved in spreading disinformation and the strategies they use.

Disinformation is often deliberately spread to serve specific political or ideological goals. For instance, certain global actors benefit from a weaker EU and therefore promote false narratives to erode trust in the Union. Önerfors also clarified the distinction between *disinformation* (intentionally false or misleading information) and *misinformation* (incorrect information shared without harmful intent). His lecture provided a valuable research-based perspective on how disinformation is shaping the political landscape.

Citizen Dialogue: Young Voices and Political Engagement

One of the highlights of the conference was an engaging citizen dialogue where young people and politicians came together to discuss digital transformation and youth participation in democratic processes. Participants included young voices such as Oskar Gybäck, Ida Karlsson Lalander, Emma Svensson, Michael Khunngoen, and Jakub Dvorský, as well as politicians Miranda Bodiroza, Jenny Håkansson, Jan Riise, and Elisabet Babic.

The discussions revealed a strong desire among young people to contribute to a more inclusive and democratic future. However, many felt that social media, often seen as a tool for dialogue, is instead dominated by monologues. Some young participants also expressed concerns about sharing their opinions publicly online due to the negative environment. Schools were highlighted as a more constructive setting where decision-makers and young people could meet for meaningful discussions.

Closing Reflections

The conference concluded with a summary of key insights from the day by Stina Lindgren from Europa Direkt Halland and Marion Eckardt, the Managing Director of Community Led Local Development Halland, who called for continued engagement on these critical issues.

"It is essential to create forums for discussions about the EU and democracy, especially in an era where false information spreads rapidly and affects trust in public institutions. This conference was a fantastic opportunity to bring together

young people and experienced stakeholders to find ways forward together," said Marion Eckardt, the event left participants with new knowledge, inspiration, and a shared commitment to strengthening democracy and countering disinformation in Europe.

- Selected photos of the event

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/1NU2vUisyqXT8woM8>

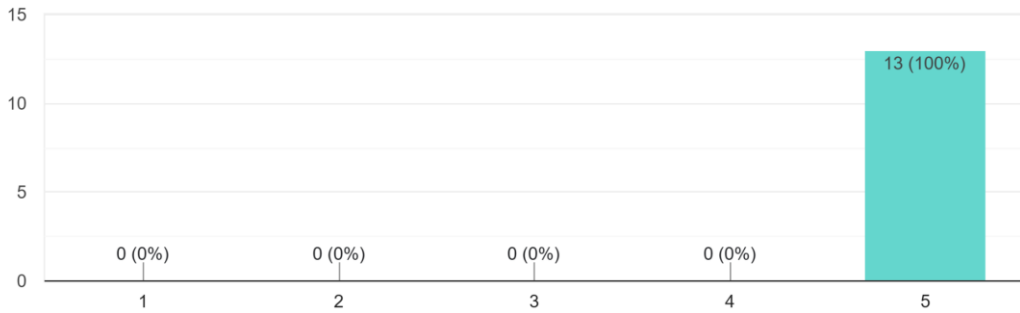
<https://lluh.se/europeisk-konferens-tillit-till-eu-i-en-tid-av-desinformation/>



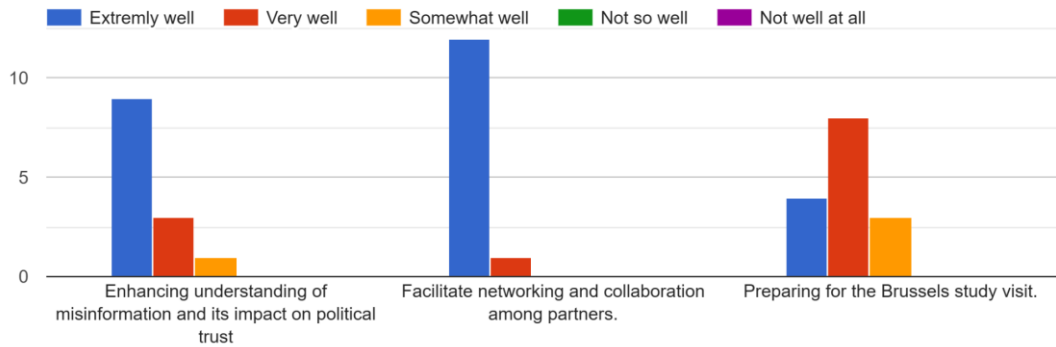
- Feedback from participants:

2. How satisfied are you with the event:

13 responses

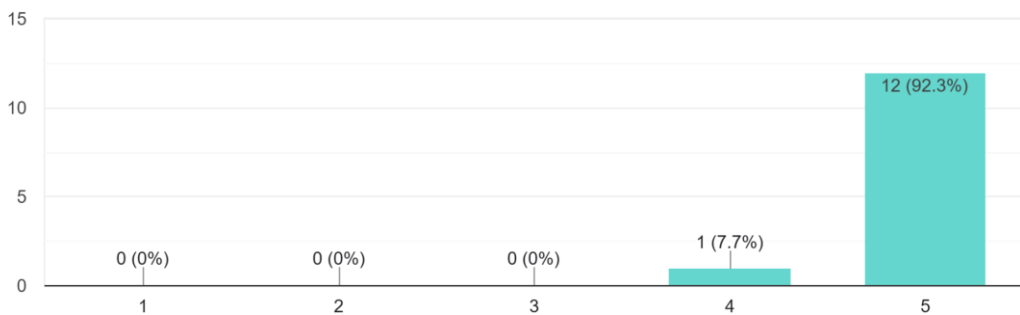


3. How well did the project meet the objectives of....



4. Moderation of the meeting/facilitation methods used:

13 responses



Feedback from the participants:

The event highlighted the challenges of maintaining trust in the EU amid disinformation, with insights from experts on political shifts and media influence. Interactive sessions, including the World Café and Citizens' Dialogue, fostered discussions on transparency and youth engagement. Study visits and networking activities added a practical dimension, emphasizing the role of community-led initiatives in strengthening trust in European institutions.

My take-aways are mainly from the World Cafe workshop, I bring back home a lot of ideas discussed during the meeting. After the event I make a list with the different points of views collected from the participants in this workshop.

Understanding the impact of misinformation of our everyday life. Enrichment through communication with people from different places.

I think it was one of the best conferences. The level of direct interaction of young people with project partners and invited experts/guests was really high. I cannot point to any negatives.

- Website and/or FB page of the event.

Links where the beneficiaries (project partners) published this report: [GroundUp - links where the beneficiaries published the deliverable 4 of the project.docx - Google Docs](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).